

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 13, 2006, has been received and reviewed. By the present Response, Claims 26, 27, 29-32, 38, and 39 are canceled, Claim 10 is amended, and new Claims 43 and 44 are added. Currently pending in the application, then, are Claims 1-7, 10-24, 33-37, and 40-44, of which Claims 1, 17, 19, and 33 are independent. No new matter has been introduced by this Response. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests reconsideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-7, 11-24, 33-37, and 40-42 are allowed. No amendments have been made to these claims. New Claims 43 and 44, which are the same as previously canceled Claims 8 and 9, are dependent from allowed Claim 1, so these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections and Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

Claim 10 stands objected to for being in improper dependent form and stands rejected for including terms lacking antecedent basis. Correction has been made.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102 and § 103

Claims 26, 27, 29-32, 38, and 39 stand rejected based on various references cited in the Office Action. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's positions and strongly believes the claims as written are allowable over the cited references. However, the Applicant is a small entity with limited funds who cannot bear the significant cost of protracted prosecution. So the Applicant has canceled Claims 26, 27, 29-32, 38, and 39, without prejudice.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments submitted herein and the above comments, it is believed that all grounds of rejection are overcome and that the application has now been placed in full condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits early and favorable action. Should there be any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is urged to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney at (770) 984-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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